CMHC SCHL

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UPDATE ON RESEARCH ON HOUSING FOR THE ENVIRONMENTALLY HYPERSENSITIVE

CMHC publications on housing for the environmentally hypersensitive are based upon the results of various research projects.

The Clean Air Guide helps the homeowner or renter assess the indoor air quality of a dwelling. To identify sources of pollutants, an audit of the home can be carried out using the checklists in the guide. Options for correcting the problems are given. Simple corrections can be undertaken by the homeowner but if extensive remedial measures are needed, a professional should be consulted.

A new video, **This Clean House**, complements **The Clean Air Guide**. A homeowner, who is asthmatic, is shown how to determine and correct indoor air quality problems. Interviews with physicians and researchers substantiate concerns on molds and other airborne pollutants. The hands-on approach will make it easier to use **The Clean Air Guide**. The video format also allows in-depth treatment of difficult subjects such as backdrafting from combustion appliances and ventilation.

Building Materials for the Environmentally Hypersensitive is a publication to help people with environmental hypersensitivity select building materials. The document is a first of its kind as it compiles known or published information on the uses, applications and health effects of building materials together with the experience of environmentally hypersensitive individuals with these materials. Available late 1995.

A Guide to Mechanical Equipment for Healthy Indoor Environments guides the reader through the different energy sources, types of furnaces or boilers (conventional, mid efficiency, high efficiency), methods of heat distribution, retrofitting an existing heating system, ventilation and air filtration systems and water purification. Available in 1996.

A number of other projects, namely **Housing Needs of the Environmentally Hypersensitive, Evaluation of the Barrhaven Multi-Unit Housing for the Environmentally Hypersensitive, Survey of Problem Homes of the Environmentally Hypersensitive** and **Lighting and Low-E Windows** are completed and nearing publication. Two projects relating to how to build a clean addition to an existing house and pesticide exposure in relation to environmental hypersensitivity are in progress. One of the projects that is expected to have far-reaching importance is a program to train qualified individuals to become indoor air quality investigators. These individuals will be able to provide an inspection service to homeowners as well as advise them on remedial methods.

The Clean Air Guide ($3.99) and **This Clean House** ($12.99, or a package of the guide and video for $15.99) can be ordered by calling Tel. 1-800-668-CMHC.